

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, JUNE 28, 1849.

PORTG CONTRIBUTORS shall soon be accommodated.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—As we allow but small space to advertisements, what we insert will be sure to be noticed. We call attention to the advertisement in another column of Dr. Dudley's Denistry, in which many readers may be interested.

Mrs. E. D. S. SWORTWICH.—Another story from the pen of this gifted woman will be commenced in the Era, a week or two hence.

WANTED.

Subscribers, who do not file their papers, and who have copies of numbers 110 and 111, will do us a favor by sending them to our address.

THE POST SISTERS, ALICE AND PHOEBE CAREY, are about to have issued from the press of C. Marshall, in Philadelphia, an edition of their works. No writers in our country have won a wider reputation in so brief a period. We feel somewhat complacent at the reflection that the Era was the first journal of any prominence that appreciated their genius.

EXPEDITION TO THE DEAD SEA AND THE JORDAN.

After the surrender of the town and castle of Vera Cruz, Lieutenant Lynch applied for permission to make a thorough exploration of the Dead Sea. When a young midshipman, he tells us almost the very least in the escort of the good Lafayette, he was seized with "an insatiate yearning to look upon the country which was the cradle of the human race, and the theatre of the accomplishment of that race's mysterious destiny;" the soil hallowed by the footprints, fertilized by the blood, and consecrated by the tomb, of the Saviour.² His application was granted, and he was ordered to take command of the United States steamer "Supply," proceed to Smyrna and solicit through Mr. Cass, American Minister at Constantinople, permission from the Sultan to pass through his dominions for the purpose of exploring the Dead Sea, and trading the Jordan to its source. If the favors were refused, he was directed to relinquish the ship to the first steamer, and land with his party on the coast of Syria, while the ship was to proceed, with its stores, to the squadron, and Commodore Read was ordered to receive her back in time for their reembarkation.

During the time required for laying in stores, the Lieutenant had two metallic boats constructed, one of copper, the other of galvanized iron, and he shipped ten seamen, young, muscular, sober, native Americans, for their crew. Two officers, Lieutenant J. B. Dale and Passed Midshipman Atwill, were detailed to assist him. F. E. Lynch was appointed to the charge of the Herbiarian; Henry Bedlow, Esq., and Dr. J. Anderson were associated with the expedition as volunteers. Air-tight gun elastic water bags were prepared; and necessary equipments for safety of life and limb in their perilous and novel undertaking.

November 26th, 1847, he sailed from New York, and, having touched at Gibraltar and Port Mahon, on the 15th of February, 1848, entered the Gulf of Smyrna. "As we passed, the Bay of Vourla opened on our right, and on the left were some remarkable green hills, and, beyond them, a long, very long, low tract, with a barely visible assemblage of white dots still beyond. It was Imlir, Infidel Imlir! Christian Smyrna!" The setting sun emperured the neighboring mountains, gilding here and shadowing there, in one soft, yet glorious hue, lending a characteristic enchantment to our first view of an Oriental City.³

He landed in Smyrna, spent a day or two there, of which he gives an animated description, and on the 15th embarked for Constantinople, where he landed on the 30th. In the short period spent here, waiting the result of his application for the firm, he said, everything that was to be seen, and jotted down his ideas with a freshness and piquancy for which our American travellers are famed.

March 6th, receiving the long-expected firman, he landed in San Francisco, on the 15th of February, 1848, entered the Gulf of Smyrna, and on the 10th sailed from Smyrna, for the coast of Syria. Chased by a Levantine, they took refuge from its fury in the Bay of Scio, and visited the city in ruins. Weighed anchor on the 14th, but, encountering another gale, bore away for Scio Nouva, on the coast of Asia Minor, where, while weather bound, they visited the ruins of Ephesus. Set sail again, all day on the 20th were in sight of the isle of Patmos, where St. John wrote the Apocalypse, and on the 25th saw the mountains of Lebanon, their shadows resting upon the sea, their summits wreathed in mist, reflected with the rays of the yet invisible sun—"brilliant as the bow of promise, the many colored mist rests like a gemmed tiara upon the brow of the lofty mountains."⁴ On the 29th, sailed past the town of St. Jean d'Acre, its battlements frowning in the distance, and anchored under Mount Carmel, before the walled village of Haifa. His account of the transportation of the equipments to Jean d'Acre, of his negotiation with the Governor, of his arrangements for crossing the country to Tiberias, &c., is full of interest. After all sorts of vexation and tribulation, triumphed, on the 3d April the caravan began to move; and, on the 6th, a gulf was caught off the Sea of Galilee. Unable to restrain his impatience, the Lieutenant rode ahead, and soon saw below, far down the green sloping chasm, the Sea of Galilee, bright in the sunlight. Like a mirror, it lay embosomed in its rounded and beautiful, but treeless hills. How dear to the Christian are the memories of that lake! the lake of the New Testament! Blessed beyond the nature of its elements, it has borne the Son of God upon its surface. Its cliffs first shone in the evening to bathe. He soon saw indications of former habitations in the precipitous rocks, and was tempted to plan some way to ascend to the roughly hewn caverns.⁵ But the sound of the running stream, and the shadow of the gorge was too inviting, and, advancing through tamarisk, oleander, and cane, we came upon the very Egeria of fountains. Far in among the cane, embowered, imbedded, hidden deep in the shadow of the purple rocks, and soft green gloom of luxuriant vegetation, lapsing with a gentle murmur from basin to basin, over the rocks, under the rocks, by the rocks, and clasping the rocks with its crystal arms, was the little fountain-meadow!⁶ This rivals the fountain of Tyre. The narrative abounds in such passages, brief and luminous. Perhaps the most thrillingly interesting part of it is his description of the southern shores of the Dead Sea, near the supposed localities of Sodom and Gomorrah. While here, they were half suffocated with a terrible sirocco, which, with the evidence of God's wrath all around them, was almost enough to awaken the fear that there might be another fire-storm from heaven.

But we must not linger over this delightful volume, and shall close our notice of it, by copying one of the many passages so powerfully descriptive of the desolation of this remarkable scene. He starts at noon-day for the eastern shore, with the boat, one, the "Fanny Skinner," the other, the "Fanny Mason."

A light air from the south induced me to abandon the awning and set the sail, to spare the men from laboring at the oars. A light tapping of the ripples at the bow, and a faint line of foam and bubbles at her side, were the only indications that she was in motion. The Fairy Skinner, as well as asterisks and all manner of marks of stillness of death. The weather was intensely hot, and even the light air that urged us almost insensibly onward, had something oppressive in its rays of heat. The sky was clouded, save by a few wisps of white, the north-west wind blew, and the light wind had dried their sashes. The glitter from the water, with its multitude of reflections, for each ripple was a mirror, contributed much to our discomfort; yet the water was not so rough as to be dangerous. The water, however, or the swelling of a Persian eye. The sun was felt, was glaring upon us; but the eye dared not take cognizance, for the fierce blaze would have blighted the powers of vision, as Semele was consumed by the unceasing fire of Jove.

The first stay was short in Tiberias. On the 8th, they launched the two metallic boats, with flags flying, upon a sea where, since the time of Josephus and the Romans, no vessel of any size had sailed, and where "for many, many years, a silent keel has furrowed its surface."

Dividing the party into two portions, one to march by land, as near the banks of the river as possible, the other to navigate the boats, on the 10th, they pushed off, and steered direct for the outlet of the Jordan. Down this river they sailed, shot, jumped or tumbled, under sweeping foliage, over shallows, whirlpools, rocks, down appalling waterfalls, in imminent peril of being dashed to pieces in the rapids, or shot down by the ambushed Arab. "The great secret," says the Lieutenant, "of the depression between Lake Tiberias and the Dead Sea, is solved by the tortuous course of the Jordan. In a space of six miles of latitude and four of longitude, the Jordan traverses at least two hundred miles. The river is in the latter stage of a freshet—a few weeks earlier, and passage would have been impracticable. As it is, we have ploughed down twenty-seven threatening rapids, besides a great many of less magnitude."

It was a glorious voyage, and amply was the Lieutenant's faith in American sailors justified.

They entered the Dead Sea, on the afternoon of the 18th, and received a stormy welcome.

"The wind rose so rapidly, that the boats could

* Narrative of the United States Expedition to the Jordan and the Dead Sea, by W. F. Lynch, U. S. N. Commander of the Expedition. Large maps and numerous illustrations Philadelphia: Lai & Blanchard. For sale by Taylor & Maury, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington.

not keep head to wind, and we were obliged to haul the log in. The sea continued to rise with the increasing wind, which gradually freshened to a gale and presented an agitated surface of foaming spray. The spray, evaporating as it fell, left incrustations of salt upon our clothes, hands, and faces; and, while it conveyed a prickly sensation wherever it touched the skin, was, above all, exceedingly painful to the eyes. The boats heavily laden struggled sluggish at first, but when the wind freshened in its fierceness, from the density of the water, it seemed as if their bows were encountering the sledge hammers of the Titans, instead of the opposing waves of an angry sea."

The commander began to fear that they would founder.

"At times it seemed as if the Dread Almighty frowned upon our efforts to navigate the sea—the creation of his wrath. There is a tradition among the Arabs that no one can venture on this sea and live. Repeatedly the fates of Costigan and Molineaux had cited to deter us. The first one spent a few days: the last about twenty hours, and returned to the place whence he had embarked, without landing upon its shores. The other experienced similar miseries, though his fate was issued at New York instead of San Francisco.

We shall take up room of late showing the greatness of the new Territory. No one needs to be told that myriad of emigrants from all parts of the world are flocking thither; that the gold diggings are inexhaustible; that thousands are keeping up treasures, while hundreds are disappointed; that new cities are being laid out, great improvements are in progress, schools are in process of establishment; missionaries are laboring to disseminate religious influences, commerce is rapidly expanding, houses are scarce, rents, wages, provisions high, and gold is plenty. The reader may tax his imagination for conceptions of all these things, and not be able to transcend what we have seen.

But although the sea had assumed a terrific aspect, and the freighted mountains, sharp and incinerated, loomed terrific on either side, and salt and ashes mingled with its sands, and fed sultry sprays trickled down its ravines, we did not despair: awe struck, but not terrified; fearing the worst, yet hoping for the best, we prepared to spend a dreary night upon the dreary waste we had never seen.

As they hoped, so it was. Near six o'clock, the wind instantly abated, and the sea as rapidly fell; the water, from its ponderous weight, settling as soon as the agitation caused had ceased to act.

Three weeks were occupied in the exploration of the sea, and Lieutenant Lynch thus sums up the results: "We have carefully sounded the entire coast of its shores, ascertained the temperature, width, depth, and velocity, of its tides, collected specimens of every kind, noted the winds, currents, changes of the weather, and all atmospheric phenomena."

On the 10th of May, they took up their line of march from the Dead Sea, visited, on their return, Jerusalem, Damascus, and Balbeck; explored the source of the Jordan, and, on the 30th of June, reached Beirut; but, not before they began to pay the penalty of overtaking their enemies. Nearly every one of the party fell sick, and, as the "Supply" had not yet reached the port, they could not escape from an unhealthy atmosphere. Lieutenant Dale lingered till the 26th July, when he died. "It was a slow and dreary ride down the rugged mountains by torch-light," says the Commander. "As I followed the body of my late companion, accompanied only by swarthy Arabs, and thought of his young and helpless children, I could scarcely repress the thought that I had been taken and he spared."

On the 30th July, they sailed for Malta in a French brig; on the 12th September, reembarked there on the "Supply," and early in December, reached their native land, having been absent a little more than one year.

We have presented a rapid sketch of this edition, from an octavo volume of 508 pages—an expedition undertaken from the best motives, planned with consummate skill, executed with unsurpassed energy, tact, intelligence, and humanity, and resulting in the thorough exploration of a remarkable sea, of which our information has always been imperfect.

The narrative possesses more than romantic interest. The writer is a well-read gentleman, and every locality in the Holy Land bears some association which lends to present desolation the charm of a past glory. His allusions are natural, graceful, and unabashed, and the unaffected reverence with which he points out the consecrated places, and glances at the events or personages with which they are identified, is one of the most agreeable features of his narrative.

This is the *Idea* which the Free Soil Party adopts as its great Central Principle, and the applications they propose to make of it are coextensive with the wants of the country. Let us see whether they are consistent and comprehensive.

1. They are opposed to Slavery, because it does not recognize the rights of all men "to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." They are opposed to any action by any organization, whether it be Church, State, party, or sect, which can favor such violent denunciations? Or do they expect to conciliate Whig Free-Sellers, and promote the spirit of unity in the Whig party?

2. They are opposed to the spirit of caste, whether it is an idealism idea be a difference of color, birth, or condition—because its inevitable tendency is to create or perpetuate inequality of natural rights?

Is not this application of their Idea consistent and comprehensive? Does it not bear against the prejudices of all the men "to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?" They are opposed to any action by any organization, whether it be Church, State, party, or sect, which can favor such violent denunciations? Or do they expect to conciliate Whig Free-Sellers, and promote the spirit of unity in the Whig party?

3. All men being created equal in natural rights, it holds that the legitimate object of all just Government is to protect these rights and equality, and that this object is best accomplished by an equal participation of all the People of a nation in its Government. Hence they are in favor of Democratic Institutions—in favor of all popular movements to obtain or maintain the recognition of popular rights, in whatever part of the world carried on—in favor of universal suffrage—in favor of investing emigrants from abroad with citizens' rights, when they have given sufficient evidence of their intention to become residents—in favor of electing all officers, where possible, by the people—in favor of frequently returning elections, so as to secure responsibility to the people.

4. All men are created equal, as each individual, therefore, has an equal right to life, liberty, and happiness, with any other individual, or condition—because its inevitable tendency is to create or perpetuate inequality of natural rights?

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6. We hold that the Jeffersonian ordinance of 1787 to be constitutional, and to be applicable to every state of territory now possessed, or that may hereafter be acquired by the United States. In reference to California, we believe the people of that Territory will form a constitution and elect members under it, before the next meeting of Congress, and that they will, in their constitution prohibiting slavery, which we shall support, and for which we mean to vote the aid of Mr. Cass and Mr. Calhoun, upon the principles avowed by them. Regarding the introduction of slaves into the country, we shall oppose it, as far as we can, in the hope that it will be rejected. We hold that the Wilcox Proviso, which promises to assign to the slaves of the South the same rights as those of the slaves of the North, will not be adopted, and that the Wilcox Proviso will be rejected.

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LITERARY NOTICES.

MR. BENTON'S SPEECH.

THE BOOK OF THE WORLD. By Richard S. Fisher, M. D. New York: J. H. Colton.

Mr. Colton has done good service to all who deal in facts and statistics, by giving this book to the American Public. It forms two large octavo volumes, compactly printed, in handsome type, compressing within its pages about as much valuable information as any book with which we are acquainted—information which every man who undertakes to enlighten or move the People must possess, but which is too statistical to be held with exactitude in one's memory. It purports to be an account of all Republics, Empires, Kingdoms, and Nations. In its references to their Geography, Statistics, Commerce, &c., accompanied with a brief historical outline of their rise, progress, and present condition. It contains four large and beautifully executed maps—one of the World; another of the Flag of all Nations; another, a combined view of the principal Mountains and Rivers in the World, with tables of their heights and lengths; the fourth, being a Telegraphic and Railroad Map of the United States, of the British Provinces in America, and of New York.

Editors and politicians, especially, have great use for such a work. They have constant occasion to appeal to just such statistics as these volumes embody, to illustrate and enforce their arguments, or explode the sophistries of dogmatists; and we all know how much labor and time are often spent in hunting up some table of figures, or some fact, through any number of cumbersome documents. The search for the proof of a single statement not unfrequently costs more time than the manufacture of an entire article or speech.

This Book of the World, for example, contains, in a condensed form, facts and statistics concerning the United States and each of them, all methodically arranged and indexed, for which we should be obliged to explore a whole field of American Almanacs, the census of 1840, the recent censuses of several States, the voluminous annual reports and documents of the Federal and State Governments, &c.

But, valuable as the work is, it yet admits of improvement. We would suggest, for instance, that in a second edition more ample information be given concerning political, criminal, vital, and pauper statistics; and also, the valuation of different countries, especially of the several States of this Union. We have no doubt that the demand will be sufficient to warrant a second edition.

THE CHOLERA. Its Cause, Prevention, and Cure. Dr. Charles Richardson of New York has lately issued a pamphlet thus entitled. His theory of the disease is, that it is produced by a minute diminution of the oxygen of the atmosphere, and that, owing to the reduced sensibility of the system, extra doses are required of remediate agents. He denounces blood-letting, narcotics, and stimulants, and relies alone on calomel, in large doses, from thirty to sixty grains, every half hour, one hour, or two hours, according to the violence of the attack. Combined with this, he uses fumigations over the chest and abdomen, and if they produce no effect in ten or fifteen minutes, he uses flannels dipped in boiling water, so as to peel off the scurf skin, and then reapplies the mustard to the raw surface. The Doctor is rather a "rough customer."

ESTHETIC PAPERS. Edited by Elizabeth F. Peabody. Boston, May, 1849.

The object, plan, and terms of this periodical are peculiar. It is designed to be a collection of papers, from master minds, presenting "the antagonistic views of Philosophy, of Individual and of Social Culture, which prevails among the various divisions of the Church, and of the Scientific and Literary World." The plan is to issue a number whenever a sufficient quantity of valuable matter shall have accumulated to fill 256 pages, which will in no case happen more than three times a year, perhaps not often than once a year."

"No person is asked to subscribe for more than one number in advance; but whoever is so far pleased with the current number as to desire another, is requested to send an order to that effect to the Editor, who is also Publisher, No. 13, West street, Boston. When a sufficient number of orders are given to the publication, including compensation to the authors, a new number will be printed; the Editor being content to receive such profit as may accrue from the sale of other numbers, not subscribed for beforehand. The Publisher's subscribers will have the numbers at \$1, payable on delivery. The price at the book stores will be \$1.25."

The paper and type on which the work is printed are beautiful; they could not be better.

As we feel quite friendly to the undertaking, we shall give the table of contents for this number, that the reader may form some idea of the significance of this claimant on the circle of thinkers:

Introduction.—The Word Esthetic.—The Editor.

Art. I. Criticism.—S. G. Ward.

Art. II. Music.—J. S. Dwight.

Art. III. War.—R. Waldo Emerson.

Art. IV. Organization.—Parke Goodwin.

Art. V. Genius.—Samson Reed.

Art. VI. The Dorion Measure, with a Modern Application.—The Editor.

Art. VII. Correspondence.—J. J. Wilkinson, M. C. S., London.

Art. VIII. Main Street.—N. Hawthorne.

Art. IX. Abuse of Representative Government.—S. H. Perkins.

Art. X. Resistance to Civil Government.—H. D. Thoreau.

Art. XI. Language.—The Editor.

Art. XII. Vegetation about Salem, Mass.—An English Resident.

Poetry.

Crawford's Ophelia.—The Editor.

A Spirit's Reply.

Hymn of a Spirit Shrouded.

Meditation of a Widow.

The Two-fold Being.

The Favorite.

We have not had time to read many of the papers. That on "War" by Emerson, is marked by breadth of view, novelty of illustration, and eloquence of expression. Hawthorne's article is a panoramic survey of Boston at different epochs, from the time when its present site, "leaf-strown," was marked by a faintly traced path, ere the white man's axe had smitten a single tree! As usual, he is quite graceful, and picturesque. Two or three of its poems are full of beautiful thoughts.

We wish the Editor great success in his high, and somewhat novel, undertaking.

BOTH SIDES.—A friend away up in New Hampshire, sending us money and subscription, lets us at "the Democracy."

Other subscribers might be obtained, if there were some to attend to; but I have hard work to look after my Whig friends since Taylor's death.

The Free Soil Democrats call the Whigs rascals in base underlings. Whigs rouse them continually. Either party is right, though it is a dozen subscribers for you, who do not subscribe to their paper. If they would do their duty, what they call Democracy in New Hampshire has always been a sort of Tompocery, not half as good as Taylor Whigery or old-fashioned Federalism, as far as the Anti-Slavery question is concerned.

Another friend away out in Ohio lets us Whigs have it:

"I send you three names. The good work is gaining ground. If it were not for the old parties, we could send you a host of names for the Whigs. Whigs in this neighborhood are the most violent supporters of your paper; and Slavery principles, but they never do anything. They are mad at the Democrats for something, but they had ill-tempered the Ohio Legislature; they would have liked the glory of that righteous act, (the rescue of the Black Laws) But they are bad."

If any man in the world is utterly without excuse for being one-sided, it is an editor; for, though the eyes of his subscribers and correspondents he looks all around and over and under every question.

The feeling among the People of Wisconsin may be inferred from the following letter, from a well-known citizen of that State:

BURLINGTON, WISCONSIN.

Dr. BAILEY: I suppose you have learned,

through your exchanges in this State, something of the fact that Emerson is a true Anti-Slavery principle, but they never do anything.

They are mad at the Democrats for something, but they had ill-tempered the Ohio Legislature; they

would have liked the glory of that righteous act, (the rescue of the Black Laws) But they are bad."

The good work is gaining ground. If it were not for the old parties, we could send you a host of names for the Whigs. Whigs in this neighborhood are the most violent supporters of your paper; and

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